

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/529,990

REMARKS

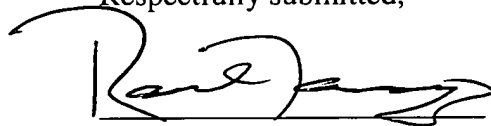
Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-12 and 17-18 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 13-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 31, 2003